

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 691

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 6587

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

CINCLANT

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USIA WASHDC

USLOSACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 6691

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: MILI, MPOL, NATO, DPC

SUBJECT: EUROGROUP MINISTERIAL MEETING DECEMBER 6, 1976:

COMMUNIQUE

THERE FOLLOWS TEXT OF EUROGROUP COMMUNIQUE WITH EUROPACKAGE

1976 ANNEX, RELEASED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE EUROGROUP

MINISTERIAL MEETING HELD AT NATO HEADQUARTERS, 6 DECEMBER 1976.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. THE EUROGROUP (1) HELD ITS REGULAR WINTER MEETING IN MINISTERIAL SESSION AT NATO HEADQUARTERS IN BRUSSELS ON 6 DECEMBER 1976 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF M. PAUL VANDEN BOEYNANTS, MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE OF BELGIUM.

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2. MINISTERS EXPRESSED THEIR GREAT SATISFACTION AT THE PARTICIPATION OF PORTUGAL IN THE WORK OF THE EUROGROUP; THEY AGREED THAT THIS WAS VERY MUCH TO BE WELCOMED AND WOULD BE OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND VALUE TO ALL MEMBERS COUNTRIES IN THE FUTURE.

3. MINISTERS NOTED WITH CONCERN THE GROWING MILITARY CAPABILITY OF THE WARSAW PACT. THEY AGREED THAT, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE SECURITY OF NATO EUROPE, IT REMAINS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE VALUE OF THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO THE OVERALL ALLIANCE DEFENCE EFFORT; AND THEY REAFFIRMED THEIR VIEW THAT THE PRESENCE OF SUBSTANTIAL US AND CANADIAN FORCES IN EUROPE IS INDISPENSABLE TO THE DEFENCE OF THE ALLIANCE AS A WHOLE. FURTHERMORE, MINISTERS CONSIDER A STRONG COLLECTIVE DEFENCE AS AN ESSENTIAL PRE-REQUISITE TO THE WEST'S QUEST FOR THE RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS AND THE PURSUIT OF GENUINE AND LASTING DETENTE.

4. IN RESTATING THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE ROLE OF THE EUROGROUP, MINISTERS STRESSED THE NEED FOR CLOSER COOPERATION, CONSULTATION AND COHESION WITH A VIEW TO STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE, TO DEVELOPING THE COLLECTIVE DEFENCE CAPABILITIES OF THEIR COUNTRIES IN THE MOST RATIONAL AND EFFECTIVE MANNER; AND TO RESOLVING THE MAJOR ISSUES OF EUROPEAN SECURITY WITHIN THE ATLANTIC FRAMEWORK.

(1) BELGIUM, DENMARK, GERMANY, GREECE, ITALY, LUXEMBOURG, NETHERLANDS NORWAY, PORTUGAL, TURKEY, UNITED KINGDOM.

5. TO THIS END, MINISTERS RECEIVED AND DISCUSSED REPORTS FROM EACH OF THE EUROGROUP SUB-GROUPS (2) WORKING TO INCREASE PRACTICAL COOPERATION IN SPECIFIC AREAS. MINISTERS WELCOMED THE USEFUL PROGRESS THAT THESE SUB-GROUPS CONTINUE TO MAKE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE WHOLE ALLIANCE; THEY PARTICULARLY NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THE DEVELOPMENT OF FURTHER WORK ON TACTICAL DOCTRINES, CONCEPTS AND EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS. MINISTERS ALSO EXAMINED AND AGREED ON A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE WORK. THESE INCLUDE THE EXTENSION OF THE STUDIES INTO A COLLECTIVE MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICE FOR EUROPE; THE SCOPE FOR REDUCING PROGRESSIVELY EXISTING DIFFERENCES IN NATIONAL ARMY STRUCTURES; THE COORDINATION OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR THE F-16 AIRCRAFT AND FACILITIES FOR OTHER JOINT JET PILOT TRAINING; AND THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASING STANDARDISATION OF ASSEMBLIES AND COMPONENTS IN DEFENCE EQUIPMENT.

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6. MINISTERS HAD A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON EQUIPMENT COLLABORATION AND ON HOW THE WORK OF EUROAD AND EUROLONGTERM COULD BEST BE USED TO FURTHER EUROPEAN ARMAMENTS COOPERATION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. THEY AGREED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS WORK IN THE OVERALL ARMAMENTS PLANNING PROCESS; AND THEY ALSO STRESSED THE NEED TO HARMONISE THESE ACTIVITIES WITH RELATED STUDIES BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE ALLIANCE AND ELSEWHERE. THEY REAFFIRMED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE CENTRAL ROLE OF THE INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN PROGRAMME GROUP IN PROMOTING EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN DEFENCE PROCUREMENT.

(2) EUROCOM: BATTLEFIELD COMMUNICATIONS

EUROLOG: LOGISTIC COOPERATION

EUROLONGTERM: LONG-TERM PLANNING

EUROMED; MEDICAL SERVICES

EURONAD: EQUIPMENT COLLABORATION
EUROSTRUCTURE: FORCE STRUCTURES
EUR/NATOTRAINING: COOPERATIVE TRAINING

7. MINISTERS FINALLY CONSIDERED AND APPROVED EUROPACKAGE 1976-
THE ATTACHED STATEMENT ON ASPECTS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES' DEFENCE
ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 1976 AND PLANS FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF MAJOR NEW
EQUIPMENT DURING 1977. MINISTERS AGREED THAT THIS STATEMENT WELL
ILLUSTRATES THEIR COUNTRIES' DETERMINATION TO PLAY THEIR FULL PART
IN THE ALLIANCE'S DEFENSIVE EFFORT.

8. . ORLA MOLLER, MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF DENMARK, ACCEPTED THE
INVITATION OF HIS COLLEAGUES TO TAKE THE CHAIR AT THEIR MEETINGS IN
1977. END TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE.
BEGIN TEXT OF EUROPACKAGE 1976 ANNEX:

EUROPACKAGE 1976

1. THROUGHOUT 1976 THE EUROGROUP HAS CONTINUED ITS WORK TO IMPROVE
AND INCREASE EUROPE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMON DEFENCE OF THE WEST,
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. THE VITAL
NEED TO MAINTAIN THE DETERRENT AND DEFENSIVE
STRENGTH OF NATO IS EMPHASISED BY THE CONTINUING GROWTH OF WARSAW
PACT MILITARY STRENGTH ON LAND, AT SEA AND IN THE AIR. THIS
BUILD-UP IS BEING SUSTAINED DESPITE
THE FACT THAT THE WARSAW PACT'S MILITARY CAPABILITY IS ALREADY FAR
GREATER THAN WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR PURELY DEFENSIVE PURPOSES. THE
PROPORTION OF THE SOVIET UNION'S GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT
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ALLOCATED TO DEFENCE IS ESTIMATED AT AROUND 13 PERCENT AT
THE PRESENT TIME.

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EQUIPMENT COLLABORATION

2. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THE EUROGROUP RECOGNISES THAT, MORE THAN EVER, PARTICULAR ATTENTION MUST BE DEVOTED TO EFFORTS TO MAKE THE OPTIMUM USE OF THE RESOURCES ALLOCATED BY MEMBER COUNTRIES TO DEFENCE. WITH THIS IN MIND EUROGROUP COUNTRIES ARE CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN A NUMBER OF PROMISING COLLABORATIVE EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT PROGRAMMES. FOR EXAMPLE THE FORMAL GO-AHEAD FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE ITALIAN/GERMAN/BRITISH TORNADO MULTIROLE COMBAT AIRCRAFT WAS GIVEN IN JULY THIS YEAR; 809 OF THESE AIRCRAFT ARE TO BE BUILT, 385 TO BE BOUGHT BY BRITAIN, 324 BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND 100 BY ITALY. IN SEPTEMBER THESE SAME THREE COUNTRIES FORMALLY AGREED TO PROCEED WITH THE PRODUCTION OF FIELD HOWITZER 70, ON THE BASIS OF A DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMM WHICH BEGAN SOME 8 YEARS AGO; THE FH 70 WHICH IS DUE TO ENTER UNCLASSIFIED

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SERVICE IN 1978, IS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF STANDARDIZATION BY EUROPEAN ALLIED COUNTRIES IN AN IMPORTANT OPERATIONAL AREA. IN ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARDS STANDARDIZATION BELGIUM, DENMARK, THE NETHERLANDS AND NORWAY ARE TO PROCURE SOME 350 US F-16 COMBAT AIRCRAFT, COMPLEMENTING THE PLANNED FORCE OF 650 US AIRCRAFT OF THIS TYPE. THE UK HAS RECENTLY JOINED GERMANY AND FRANCE IN COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF THE MILAN ANTI-TANK GUIDED WEAPON SYSTEM. DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDER WAY AMONG A NUMBER OF EUROGROUP NATIONS ON THE SCOPE FOR COMMON PROCUREMENT OF NEW VERSIONS OF THE SIDEWINDER AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE.
NEW EQUIPMENT FOR 1977

3. LOOKING AHEAD, EUROGROUP COUNTRIES PLAN TO INTRODUCE, INTER ALIA, THE FOLLOWING MAJOR NEW EQUIPMENT IN 1977:

NAVAL CAPABILITY

6 DESTROYERS:ESCORTS
8 MINELAYERS/MINESWEEPERS
11 FAST PATROL BOATS
3 SUPPORT SHIPS
8 MARITIME HELICOPTERS
3 SUBMARINES

ARMOUR/ANTI-ARMOUR CAPABILITY

288 MAIN BATTLE TANKS

1371 OTHER ARMoured VEHICLES
439 ANTI-ARMOUR MISSILE SYSTEMS
5900 HAND-HELD ROCKET LAUNCHERS

AIR CAPABILITY
63 COMBAT AIRCRAFT
20 TRANSPORT AND SUPPLY AIRCRAFT
40 LAND-BASED HELICOPTERS
334 ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS
360 ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUIDED MISSILE SYSTEMS

QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS

4. IN 1977, 10 DESTROYERS WILL BE FITTED WITH NEW SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE SYSTEMS, 4 DESTROYERS WILL BE FITTED WITH NEW SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SYSTEMS, AND 74 MARITIME AIRCRAFT WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH NEW TORPEDO OR MISSILE SYSTEMS; 570 ARMoured VEHICLES ARE TO BE FITTED WITH IMPROVED ARMOUR OR UPGRADED GUNS, AND UNCLASSIFIED

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200 FIELD GUNS TO BE UPRATED; 900 AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE SYSTEMS ARE TO E MODERNISED, AND 56 COMBAT AIRCRAFT WILL BE FITTED WITH NEW EQUIPMENT FOR ELECTRONIC WARFARE. A PROGRAMME TO UPGRADE THE HAWK SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE IS UNDERWAY IN SEVERAL EUROGROUP COUNTRIES; IN 1976 WORK ON 2NETHERLANDS AND 3 GERMAN BATTERIES WAS COMPLETED, AND FURTHER SYSTEMS ARE TO BE IMPROVED IN 1977.

PRACTICAL CO-OPERATION

5. ANOTHER MEANS OF INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FORCES OF THE EUROGROUP COUNTRIES IS BY FURTHERING THE EXTENT OF PRACTICAL CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE MEMBER COUNTRIES ON A RANG OF COMMON DEFENCE PROBLEMS. THE SUB-GROUPS OF THE EUROGROUP HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED MUCH IN A WIDE VARIETY OF FIELDS; THEIR PRAGMATIC, DOWN-TO-EARTH APPROACH HAS BEEN FURTHER ENHANCED BY THE DIRECT PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT OF MINISTERS. BY THIS MEANS, A STRONG AND VITAL LINK HAS BEEN FORGED BETWEEN THE POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL LEVELS OF THE EUROGROUP. WORK HAS BEEN SET IN HAND TO ACHIEVE GREATER COHESION BETWEEN MEMBER COUNTRIES IN FIELDS SUCH AS CO-OPERATIVE TRAINING, MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICES, TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS, THE ALLOCATION OF LOGISTIC RESOURCES AND THE MONITORING OF LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR NEW WEAPON/EQUIPMENT PROJECTS; THE HARMONISATION OF TACTICAL THINKING AND DOCTRINES IS ALSO PROCEEDING APACE.

STATIONING OF FORCES

6. IN SUPPORT OF NATO'S STRATEGY OF DETERRENCE AND FORWARD DEFENCE, SEVERAL EROGROUP COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO STATION A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THEIR FORCES OUTSIDE THEIR HOMELAND. FOR EXAMPLE, THE UNITED KINGDOM STATIONS ABOUT A THIRD OF HER LAND FORCES AND

BELGIUM ABOUT A THIRD OF HER TOTAL FORCES IN THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. THESE TWO COUNTRIES, TOGETHER WITH THE
NETHERLANDS, WHICH ALSO HAS CONSIDERABLE ELEMENTS OF ITS FORCES
STATIONED OUTSIDE ITS OWN TERRITORY, HAVE OVER 20 PERCENT OF
THEIR TOTAL ARMED FORCES, AS WELL AS 130,000 DEPENDANTS, IN OTHER
NATO COUNTRIES.

DEFENCE EXPENDITURES

7. FOLLOWING THE REAL INCREASE IN THE AGGREGATE EXPENDITURE
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ON DEFENCE BY EUROGROUP COUNTRIES IN 1975, THERE HAS BEEN A FURTHER
REAL INCREASE IN 1976. IN CASH TERMS, MEMBER COUNTRIES' DEFENCE
SPENDING HAS RISEN BY \$5 BILLION THIS YEAR.
END TEXT OF ANNEX.STRAUSZ-HUPE

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